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Latin America Report

(FOUO 15/81)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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ENERGY ECONOMICS

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

ALCOHOL, OIL USAGE--Just released statistics show that in the past year Brazil's consumption of alcohol fuel has increased by 2,000 percent. During January-April 1981, Brazilians used 463,000 cubic meters of alcohol. At the same time, consumption of petroleum derivatives is down 7.8 percent overall including gasoline, whose consumption dropped 18.7 percent from levels a year ago. Industrial fuel usage is 11 percent lower, while kerosene consumption has dropped 6.1 percent compared to last year. [PY222232 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 22 May 81 p 4]

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COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

PANAMANIAN, COLOMBIAN COMMUNISTS ISSUE COMMUNIQUE

PA210022 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1615 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Panama City, 19 May (PL)--The communist parties of Panama and Colombia have condemned the policy of tension and war that the U.S. Government is trying to impose on the world and have announced their firm decision to struggle for peace.

According to a communique released here today, high-level delegations of the two parties held a meeting in Panama at which they underscored their similar political viewpoints.

The Colombian communists ratified their support for the victorious revolutions of Nicaragua and Grenada and expressed their combative solidarity with the Latin American peoples struggling for their national liberation, the document adds.

They also indicated their support for the Belizean people's inalienable right to self-determination and independence and rejected all attempts by Guatemala's reactionary circles to seize part of that small Central American country's territory.

Further, the document signed by the Colombian and Panamanian communist delegations condemns the anti-Cuban campaign promoted by the Washington Government and implemented by the most reactionary Colombian sectors when they broke relations with that island.

They stressed that this development constitutes a vain effort to isolate the Cuban revolution and to serve the obscure interests of the war-oriented U.S. colonial policy.

The two parties determinedly endorsed the Soviet Union's peace policy and the plan presented by CPSU Secretary General Leonid Brezhnev at the recently held 26th Congress.

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

1981-82 COFFEE PROSPECTS--Rio de Janeiro (DAILY POST)--Brazil expects a super harvest of coffee in the 1981-82 growing season, said president of the Brazil Coffee Institute Octavio Rainho. He expects production to reach 32.1 million 132-lb bags of coffee. Brazil hopes to export 19 million bags of coffee this year and to increase this amount next year. [PY222232 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 20 May 81 p 7]

CAR SALES, EXPORTS--Brasilia (DAILY POST)--There was a 159.5 percent increase in exports of Brazilian automobiles in the first quarter of 1981. However, domestic sales were down 40.1 percent on the same period last year. [PY222232 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 20 May 81 p 7]

STEEL EXPORTS--Sao Paulo (DAILY POST)--Steel exports, which represented 10 percent of the total of 15.3 million tons produced in Brazil in 1980, will probably increase to 12 percent in 1981. [PY222232 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 20 May 81 p]

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

REASONS FOR SALT RATIONING EXPLAINED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 17 Apr 81 p 85

[Article by Gloria Marsan]

[Text] Every day new products appear on the free market but nevertheless there have recently been problems in buying salt. Our country is an island and hence surrounded by the sea. The sea is prodigal in goods for mankind. It freely offers some of them and all we have to do is reach out and take them. However, most of them have to be extracted with constant human labor.

Nevertheless, every day we take all we want from the sea. Thus, precisely, in Cuba we take from the sea one of the fundamental elements for life: salt. This product has so much significance that frequently we hear it said of something or someone lacking in charm that "it (he, she) is without salt, has no saltcellar."

Recently there has been a shortage of salt and everyone is wondering: How is this possible if we are an island with sunshine almost all year long? That is true, but as we have pointed out, this is one of the goods that must be extracted. "Yes," they might answer us, "for that purpose we have five saltworks in the country." Very well, there is an explanation for everything.

We investigated and learned that the methods of extraction were not the most modern and although the technology has been improved and some installations have been enlarged, production is still insufficient. New investments were projected and begun. However, as our colleague Marilza Barranco of JUVENTUD REBELDE says, in the management of our organisms we have not succeeded in making either large or small function at the planned rate. In the past 5-year period the builders produced works worth millions of pesos, but the small enlargements in the saltworks were put off.

Add to this that 1979 was a year of heavy rainfall and that salt is soluble. The result was that in spite of the great efforts expended by the salt workers, Cuba had to import salt. We suggest that if the planned construction had been finished it would have been possible to export salt last year.

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Once again the government leadership had to take measures to give priority to a task which should already have been completed. This time the builders, that force which moves the earth, answered as they always do to overcome the difficulties in the daily production battle, also adding the warmth of emulation to these new goals.

More than 2,000 workers laboring in the Puerto Padre saltworks in Las Tunas, Nueve de Abril in Villa Clara, the Real in Camaguey, Frank Pais in Guantanamo and Bidos in Matanzas, are proposing to speed up completion of the project as much as possible, although the plan is to finish these works in 1983.

The emulation is arranged between the builders and the salt workers, being fundamentally based on fulfilling the technioeconomic plan, labor discipline, quality, productivity and costs. Inspections will be made quarterly and the labor organizations of each enterprise will provide information for the first inspection, which is to be made on 9 April; the second has been planned for 10 July and the third will be on 10 October. The final inspection will be in February 1982.

The Villa Clara workers plan to win the contest and have proposed that the first balance sheet for emulation be made precisely at the Nueve de Abri saltworks, on that date, as a salute to the anniversary of the revolutionary strike begun precisely on a day like that one in 1958. We know that there are other strong contenders. BOHEMIA is waiting for the results.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

EFFECT OF WAGE REFORM ON TRANSPORTATION SECTOR ANALYZED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 1 May 81 p 32

[Article by Gregorio Hernandez: "General Wage Reform"]

[Text] The subject of wage reform is of continuing interest, above all during the period of its establishment.

On this occasion we will take up in our column how this regulation is being carried out in the transportation branch in general, looking into some aspects we believe require a specific analysis which will contribute to instructive information.

In one of the justifications in Resolution 457 of the State Labor and Social Security Committee, which sets the norms for the establishment of the general wage reform approved by the Council of Ministers, it states that in order to achieve this goal, it is essential, among other things, to implement the system of payment based on yield in all the activities in which conditions are suitable for the purpose. It is necessary to provide norms for all possible activities and to update the existing norms so that they will reflect the productive potential of the labor force. It also orders a review and simplification of the structures and schedules of workers directly involved in production and services.

Assuming the obligatory nature of these provisions, it can be added that the transportation sector, which has a labor force exceeding 100,000, now has more than 35,000 of these workers covered by reform, with all its positive and consistent results.

Enterprises in the air, railroad, port, maritime, automotive, workshop and other sectors are plunged in the complexities involved in the fulfillment of the provisions resulting from Resolution 457.

Now then, what are the main tasks which must be carried out in order to promote application of these measures, tasks which must also be supported by the divisions, branches and functional units of the main body?

The most outstanding are: expansion of the sphere of labor norming, an increase in the number of workers normed and the time fund worked under norms; fulfillment of the plan for review of the existing labor norms, above and beyond the parameters for which the resolution provides; improvement in the basic organization of work,

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with fulfillment of the measures in the annual plan for the development of labor organization, in order thus to ensure that at least 60 percent of the planned production growth is obtained thanks to these measures; and drafting of the payment systems pending application and submission of them for consideration by the CEPSS [State Committee for Labor and Social Security].

As of the time we are writing this analysis, only seven enterprises and two establishments out of a total of 41 in the central body are receiving the benefits of reform, although this is not due to any lack of effort.

What are the factors responsible for the fact that this goal has not yet been achieved in all of these enterprises? We can note as major ones the matters defining bonus regulations, adaptation of the wages paid to the provisions established by reform, changes in the payment system, and errors in the documentation presented, leading to its return to the enterprises for correction.

On the other hand, for example, the truck enterprises are subject to approval of the general state transportation list, which is expected shortly.

However, despite these initial difficulties, reform is moving firmly ahead in the transportation sector. When this column reaches the readers, it will have already been applied in at least 50 percent of the enterprises, with regard to the provisions for laborers, service and administrative workers, and when the 75 percent level is reached, which is expected during the second quarter of this year, the benefits will be extended to technical personnel, provided that the common qualifying factors pertinent to this professional category have been approved.

In conclusion, we can state that the general wage reform is, because of its overwhelming importance, a subject of the greatest interest. We will continue to deal with this subject and its application in such an important sector of the national economy as transportation in subsequent articles.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

DEVELOPMENT OF REFRIGERATION INDUSTRY DISCUSSED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 1 May 81 pp 28-31

[Text] Tropical countries such as Cuba face special difficulties in connection with farm product supply. With few exceptions, harvests are carried out within a very short time, because almost all fruits mature suddenly, and if they are not gathered speedily, the effort of the farmers would be wasted.

And so we find that suddenly the markets are flooded with a certain product (cabbages, tomatoes, tangerines, grapefruit, potatoes, yams, etc.) and thus supply automatically becomes greater than demand or what the population can absorb. This is even more true with vegetables, because apart from the fact that it is not the habit of Cubans to consume great quantities of them, this habit is not developed through the availability of a wide range of salads in our restaurants either. We never see them in a pizzeria or a cafeteria, and it is even uncommon to find them in workers' dining rooms or even those in schools.

When situations of this sort occur with industrial products with a long life (fabrics, pressure cookers, radios, etc.), the solution is relatively easy. For example, sometimes the law of supply and demand is used, lowering prices so per capita consumption will increase. Or the surplus may be stored for rational distribution.

But it is almost impossible to do this with farm products. For the second problem with these farm harvests in tropical countries is their short life. An apple harvested in November can be eaten in April, but a mango rots in 10 days or less.

How many times have we seen (and smelled) the disagreeable phenomenon of dozens of cases of rotten goods near the farm product markets? We recall harvests of potatoes or oranges in the past leading to such situations, with no solution. What can be done?

Faced with this problem, which is basic to the national economy, two systems are being applied simultaneously. The first, which we will not discuss here, is the scientific search for farm varieties which are longer lasting than the traditional ones. The other is the construction of huge cold storage plants at key points in the country, from which export or rational distribution for local consumption, as the case may be, can be effected.

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At the end of the last 5-year period, two refrigeration plants for farm produce began operation: the Nuevitas plant in Camaguey, and the Habana del Este plant, in the city of Havana. Each of them has a capacity of 25,000 cubic meters, distributed among 21 refrigeration chambers. This year six more are being built, in Pinar del Rio, Matanzas, Camaguey, Santiago de Cuba, Cienfuegos and the city of Havana.

This construction is a part of an ambitious program which has been in development since the 1960s with a view to the rational use of the farm potential of the country and guarantee a stable and continuous supply of farm products for the people. Of the refrigeration plants being built, the technology and the execution of the project are Bulgarian, while the construction plans are Cuban. In brief, they are the result of Cuban-Bulgarian cooperation. Two of the refrigeration facilities being built are entirely Cuban projects.

Cuban Project Developed

The two Cuban refrigeration facilities are located in Cienfuegos and the city of Havana. Their construction is the responsibility of experts at the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of the Ministry of the Steelworking Industry. This is the first experiment doing this type of building with entire Cuban plans to be undertaken in Cuba, making a considerable savings in foreign exchange possible, while opening up broad prospects for eliminating the need for completely imported plans and plants.

These installations cost more than 5 million pesos each. From the architectonic point of view, a high percentage of prefabricated elements is used. Insofar as possible the equipment is based on domestic products, although some of the parts are imported from various countries.

Cienfuegos Refrigeration Plant

The plant being built in Cienfuegos will have eight cooling chambers kept at 0° C., each with an area of 18 by 24 square meters, providing a capacity of 25,000 cubic meters. The design was based on plans to use this facility basically in connection with the operation of the Victoria de Giron citrus fruit plant.

Naturally, a facility of this type, although adapted to the special requirements of a given product, can store any other plant product, with placement in the chambers arranged differently.

With regard to the pace of construction, the Cienfuegos refrigeration plant is lagging behind those of other provinces, due in part to the serious difficulties encountered in sinking piles. But this subject has priority and its builders expect to complete four chambers during the month of September and four others in December of this year.

It appears to us that the goal set is very ambitious, especially if we bear in mind that two such giant projects as the Karl Marx cement plant and the initial stages of the first thermonuclear power plant to be built in Cuba, among others, are going up in the environs of Cienfuegos.

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The builders in the "Pearl of the South," while making progress toward the transformation of their province into an industrial power, are contributing to the work of other regions. Recently they completed capital repairs on a kiln at the Siguaney cement plant, while another brigade is working on the building of the white paper plant which is going up in Jatibonico.

However, it is for the worthy men in the white helmets to say. We await reports from them, for Bohemia would be honored to visit them if they achieve this important goal they have set themselves.

City of Havana

The other Cuban refrigeration plant is located near the Mediodia Highway in the municipality of Playa. This plant is of great importance for supplying the capital. As is usual with this type of construction, it has been designed for the storage of a very wide range of products. Although basically it will be used to store potatoes, it will also handle other products during various seasons of the year.

It has 16 square cooling chambers, measuring 18 meters along the side and 7 in height. This space provides for the conservation of 20,000 tons of farm products, although naturally this figure varies depending on the specific weight of the various products. Eight of its chambers will be kept at a temperature as low as 0° C., while the others can be set as low as -18° C., depending on the need in each case.

The execution of the project has been entrusted to the workers of the Industrial Projects Construction Enterprise No 3, for the industrial installation, and those of Architecture Projects No 24, for the civil construction work. They propose to complete the first four chambers and have them ready for use during the second quarter, and the other four by the end of this year.

This construction is lagging slightly behind schedule due to the lack of certain resources, including temporary electricity. At the present time this situation has been corrected, but without a doubt a carefully drafted program will have to be followed in order to regain the time lost and to complete the stages on schedule. However, we will pay a visit there in June.

Cuban-Bulgarian Refrigeration Plants

The other four refrigeration plants being built in the country (Pinar del Rio, Matanzas, Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba) are benefitting from advanced technology provided by Bulgaria. The total cost of each of these comes to an investment of about 8 million pesos.

With the exception of the plant in Pinar del Rio, which is smaller, these cold storage facilities have a net or real storage capacity of 25 cubic meters, distributed among 21 chambers, 16 of them functioning at 0° C. This is the temperature generally used for the storage of farm products. The other five are kept at about -18° C., mainly for the storage of meat.

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On the subject of temperature, it should be mentioned that the possible range is very broad. In other words, these installations are planned to function as described in the preceding paragraph. However, if circumstances so require, the 0° chambers can function at temperatures even below -18°, or at temperatures slightly above zero.

Santiago de Cuba in the Lead

The technical supervisor of this project is architect Luis Valdes, who talked enthusiastically with us about his work. He explained that the Santiago de Cuba refrigeration plant was begun in the final days of 1979. Located on the northern shore of the bay, its construction required the sinking of some 1,400 piles, as deep in some cases as 100 meters. This work was done by specialized crews, following a logical construction sequence.

"Simultaneously," Valdes told us, "we undertook all of the construction phases in the various sectors: sinking piles, foundation work, civil construction, waterproofing, etc. This means working under considerable pressure, but also with rather sizable resources available for the project. The results have been good, because we have gained several months on the schedule."

In reality, we do not recall such substantial advances or any with these characteristics in works of such magnitude in our entire journalistic experience. Naturally, this creates a special situation, because an unplanned rate such as this makes constant changes in the project schedule necessary, and leads to the fact that a number of resources supposedly to have been made available at a later date must be provided much earlier.

This creates a most difficult situation. If the resources are provided ahead of schedule, other construction may be affected. If they are not, the great effort made by the workers is wasted and it is not possible to profit from the advance achieved in a project of such importance to the national economy.

In moving faster than the investors, the builders have put their capacity for maneuvering to a real test. The problems have been resolved thus far, but even so the builders were unable to meet their goal of delivering capacities ready for use at the end of last year. Their new goal is to put three chambers into operation next May.

Although we saw the zeal with which these comrades worked, we know that the task is not an easy one, because the impermeability and insulation tests, etc., generally take a long time. But we shall see during the next check on the special industrial projects emulation.

However, because of the rate of work achieved and other special characteristics, the Santiago de Cuba refrigeration plant merits careful analysis. We are accustomed to seeing cases in which an advance achieved in projects does not mean real progress in the long run, because the advance is only partial or falls below the necessary quality level. And then the famous "overfulfillment" is lost in making repairs. But in this case an advance was achieved in the project schedule with all the established parameters met. What was the reason for this triumph? Let us analyze some of them.

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The Specialized Crew

In various works we have described the advantages of this system of organizing the labor force. In brief, the workers in specialized crews, as the term indicates, produce work more skillfully and speedily because the members have become experts in the subject in question. In addition, because they are specialized, the workers achieve a higher quality level than a worker who is not a specialist.

But that is not all. The specialized crew is linked with the work done from the wage viewpoint, in the ways established for construction workers. This means that if when a given project is delivered, the required quality parameters are not met, the portion involved or the whole of the project must be redone, without further payment. Therefore, the crew always has a special interest in completing its projects impeccably.

For this same reason, the crew does not tolerate within it laggards, loiterers, workers who are often absent or who do low quality work, because they threaten the interests of the collective. When the crew detects such cases of an individual nature, various procedures are possible. An ignorant worker can be taught, a lazy one encouraged, or in extreme cases, a worker is expelled from the group if it is demonstrated that its morale is being affected and the economy of each of the components threatened.

Contract Payment

Another point which is basic to the success achieved is contract payment. This payment system not only benefits the worker but also the economy of the country in general. It encourages the worker to produce more and better. It is precisely an increase in productivity which is sought in this just combination of moral incentives, which are basic in a socialist society, and material incentives, which by raising the standard of living of the worker also achieve a basic goal.

Contract payment is not only the motive force of production within the project, but outside it as well. For example, in the past when an interruption occurred, all of the workers had their full wages guaranteed, and they would wait patiently while the cause of the suspension was resolved, if it did not depend on them. This led to demoralizing situations which were repeated with relative frequency when the complete productive flow was not properly interlinked. When this occurs now, the worker ceases to earn a part of his wages.

This circumstance makes the worker an individual interested not only in his own labor sector, but in the production chain as a whole, and he will exert pressure beyond his limited field of action and become a general activist in the project. And as under socialism work always has a social connotation and not just that of simple individual benefit, contract payment also contributes to the worker's increasing awareness of all the factors which play a role in construction.

During interruptions, the workers receive only 50 or 70 percent of their wages. But the worker does not want to be paid only a certain percentage, but rather to work and earn his complete wages, and then to achieve quality overfulfillment in order to earn something more above the norm. Overfulfillment represents greater income, as an immediate material result, and duty fulfilled, as a moral result.

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All of the crews on this project are involved in contract payment. But there is one crew which has a special system, the "support" crew. It has two functions: to carry out the unloading of materials, and, as its name indicates, to provide support where it is needed. As it has no specific work assignment, it receives payment for overfulfillment based on the general project results.

Industrial Installation

"The delivery of the civil construction portion is vital to the development of our work," engineer Jose Miguel Navarro, installation supervisor at the refrigeration plant, told us. "Based on prior experience and the special conditions pertaining to this Santiago de Cuba project, we began the technical installation with the compressors in the engine room.

"Later we worked on the condensers and the cooling towers. Currently we are working in continuous fashion on the complex type network, a basic aspect of the project, because it represents about 20 percent of the total installation value."

When we visited the construction workers at the Santiago de Cuba refrigeration plant for the first time, the project was more than 2 months ahead of schedule and the workers hoped to provide delivery of three completed chambers during December. This was not possible due to difficulties beyond their control. But they did not readily let themselves be frustrated. New strategies were put into effect to maintain the rate of construction, with a shift to other project targets and changes in the established schedule, without affecting either quality or logical sequence.

A Crew Chief Speaks

Ernesto Colas, a builder with long experience and an exemplary militant, heads a masonry crew. He speaks of his comrades with just pride but also without compromise: "Good work has been achieved on this project in general, but to be just one must recognize certain internal shortcomings, overcome to a great extent thanks to the effort and the quality of the personnel, who have considerable experience and have responded conscientiously to the demands of production.

"We know that the work can be done better, although it must be admitted that not all of the shortcomings depend on the builders alone. The materials we use have a considerable effect on the quality of our work. For example, good roofing cannot be guaranteed with the tiles we receive, because many are defective.

"Also there are difficulties with roofs made of prefabricated elements, but here it is due to our failure to fulfill technical norms, basically in the finishing of the drain, which is the usual focus of the problem. Naturally, with the control exercised in working by crews, these problems are being overcome increasingly every day."

The Opinion of the Union

The general secretary of the trade union bureau, Hugo Palacios, joined in the conversation, saying that if concern with the quality of the work is vital, concern

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with man is equally so, because without the workers there is nothing, and in order to prevent accidents, each worker must be provided with maximum safety at his labor post.

"But this is not enough," said Hugo. "One must insist constantly that the workers meet the established safety requirements. The greater the skill the worker acquires at his work, the less attention he pays to protecting himself. It is necessary to remind the workers constantly that it is not just someone's whim, but their duty to use the protective equipment and means available. But believe it or not, it is even necessary to penalize them to make them take care. Although it seems incredible, it is very difficult to achieve this.

"When the labor post does not have the protective equipment necessary, all the workers should insist that it be shut down, regardless of the economic implications this may have. A delay in any project is a thousand times preferable to threatening the life of a worker, because anything can be recovered except the life of a man."

Final Summary

There are six refrigeration plants currently under construction on the island, to be added to the current capacity. But in the very near future, within this 5-year period, if the economic rate of the country's development continues, another eight will be built, in the city of Havana and the provinces of Havana, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Ciego de Avila, Holguin, Granma and Las Tunas. Adding the capacity now under construction to that of these new projects, the current volume will be increased by 403,600 cubic meters.

Without a doubt the experience in contract payment, specialized crews, construction technological flow, etc. will continue to be accumulated, making it possible for each new refrigeration plant to be built more speedily and to prove better and more efficient. Cooling is essential in a tropical country. That is why for the first time in the history of Cuba, engineers are being graduated in this field, and there are specialized institutes to increase their number. This is the way to triumph over our heat and to feed the people more and better.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

NEW ENTERPRISE FINANCIAL TERMS EXPLAINED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 17 Apr 81 pp 86, 87

[Article by Alexis Codina]

[Text] Net profit [Ganancia de balance] is the difference between the monetary resources that an enterprise acquires for the sale of its production and for other activities minus the cost of production and other expenses.

Out of its net profit the enterprise pays interest to the bank for the credits received and pays into the budget the established contributions. What is left after making these payments is called the calculated profit [ganancia de calculo], from which the enterprise can obtain monetary resources to create funds for economic growth, according to the results it achieves in determined indicators. The enterprise sends the remainder to its higher headquarters for the centralized funds existing on that level.

The need to utilize these terms results from the double role played by profits in a socialist economy.

On the one hand, it constitutes the principal source for covering the general needs of society, such as education, public health, social security, etc., as well as the new investments required for the economic and social development of the country, which are financed by the state budget. For this goal the enterprise makes contributions from its net profit.

On the other hand, profit is also used to stimulate improvement in the economic management of the enterprise, as it is the source for creating funds for economic stimulation by interesting the workers in improving the general efficiency of the enterprise, in this way uniting individual and collective interests with the general interests of society. The resources for attaining this objective are taken from the calculated profit.

The increase in the calculated profit is one of the indicators to be used in Cuba to form the Prize Fund in the enterprises selected during the 5-year period 1981-85.

The principal ways to increase both kinds of profit are to increase production and to reduce costs. The enterprise may also increase its profit through marginal activities using the wastes of production, as well as renting out temporarily idle equipment, such as trucks, machines, etc.

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COUNTRY SECTION

EL SALVADOR

'PRELA'SAYS ARMY STOLE FOOD FROM CHARITY OUTFIT

PA221820 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1949 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] San Jose, 21 May (PL)--The Salvadoran Army stole a shipment of provisions from the humanitarian organization, "Caritas," which had been sent for the refugees of that country who are in dire need of food and medical assistance.

The supplies which Caritas was going to deliver to the refugee camps consisted of wheat, flour and oil. The peasants who have arrived from rural areas, bombarded by the army are crammed into these camps.

The Agencia Independiente de Prensa [AIP] disclosed that in order to justify the theft of the provisions, the military alleged that the supplies were going to be handed over to the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, special troops supported by helicopters were sent by the high military command to Suchitoto in a new attempt to regain control of the area.

A member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], commenting on this new operation, told the AIP that "this new tactic is not giving them any positive results either."

The Salpress News Agency has reported several attacks by the insurgents on the town of Cinqueras in Cabanas Department and shooting in different parts of San Salvador.

In Cinquera, the national guard quarters, the army garrison and the local headquarters were attacked with heavy fire causing numerous casualties to the government forces.

Salpress also reported that in Villa Dolores, Cabanas Department, the army has not been able to destroy the walls and the fortresses which have been built by the guerrillas to prevent the mobilization of the troops in the rebel zones.

News received from different regions report the strengthening of the people's power and how the rainy season is being used to increase the agricultural production in the liberated zones.

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The source said that the people's militias conducted several clashes in San Salvador while the traffic was blocked in several streets and avenues.

In El Salvador nine affiliates of the Industrial Metalworkers Union complained to the Guatemalan military regime over the arrest of Salvadoran union leader Jose Sanchez Gallegos in that neighboring country.

These mass organizations believe that the arrest of Sanchez Gallegos is in response to the Guatemalan regime's commitment to collaborate with the Salvadoran junta.

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COUNTRY SECTION

PANAMA

TEMPORARY VISAS GRANTED TO CUBAN EXILES

PA292027 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 May 81 p 1

[Text] A dozen Cubans who are here in transit to the United States yesterday hurriedly left the hotel in which they were staying after being alerted that they would be sent back to Cuba.

The incident became public knowledge when two women and five children of Cuban nationality entered this newspaper's premises and voiced their fears.

Completely reliable sources told LA PRENSA that tickets were ready for them to board an Iberia plane scheduled to make a stop in Havana and that the repatriation would thus be effected.

The Cubans were identified as Mateo Bhigas, his wife and three children as well as Arcadio Suarez, his wife and two infants.

The incidents are directly related to a scandalous sale of Honduran visas with which some 600 Cubans were expecting to leave their country. According to unofficial reports, not less than 200 Cubans had arrived in Honduras when its authorities discovered the fraudulent operation. As a result, Honduran Deputy Government Minister Jose Lara was dismissed.

The 10 Cubans who arrived in Panama Thursday en route to Honduras had to stay here because executives of the Honduran airline Sahsa prevented them from leaving for Tegucigalpa on the grounds that their visas has been canceled.

Late last night it was learned that they had again checked into a hotel, Panama City's La Siesta Hotel, after Panamanian authorities promised to grant them 30-day visas to straighten out their problem and to leave for the United States.

Panama agreed to intervene in this matter after receiving a request for assistance from the Honduran diplomatic representatives in Panama City.

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COUNTRY SECTION

PANAMA

BRIEFS

STUDENTS SEIZE REGIONAL CENTER--Some 60 youths, members of the University Front for Revolutionary Action [Frente Universitario de Accion Revolucionaria--FUAR] and of the Panamanian Youth Movement [MJP], seized the offices of the Colon Regional University Center Directorate this morning. FUAR Secretary General Dorindo Cortes told this station on the phone that the seizure is in support of the four university students who are staging a hunger strike as well as being a protest demonstration against the university law which passed the first debate this morning by the National Legislative Council. According to Cortes, the law turns the regional centers into day nurseries. He added that the students will remain in the office today and part of tomorrow. The Colon Regional Center was seized without any violence. [PA290031 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 May 81]

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